

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-13 SAJ-01 /074 W

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R 160900Z APR 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5504

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 712

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: FIGHTING METAPHOR WITH METAPHOR

REF: (A) PEKING 702, B) HONG KONG 4184

1. A FULL PAGE OF THE APRIL 14 "PEOPLE'S DAILY" (PD), TITLED "BATTLEGROUND (NO. 18)", IS GIVEN OVER TO POEMS AND ARTICLES OBVIOUSLY INTENDED AS A REPLY TO TEXTS DISPLAYED AT TIEN AN MEN SQUARE IN THE DAYS PRIOR TO THE APRIL 5 INCIDENT (REFTEL A). IT IS A REPLY IN KIND, TO THE EXTENT EVEN OF TURNING MANY OF THE WORDS OF THE TIEN AN MEN AUTHORS BACK UPON THEM. THE PD SEEMS, HERE AGAIN, MAINLY CONCERNED TO PIN THE BLAME FOR THE "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL INCIDENT" AT THE SQUARE WXN TENG HSIAO-PING AND HIS FOLLOWERS AND TO DEPICT THEM AS A MERE HANDFUL. BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO BLUR OR REVERSE THE ORIGINAL ASSOCIATIONS OF IMAGES USED IN THE TEXTS AT THE SQUARE.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS THE PD ARTICLES AND POEMS (MOST OF THEM OSTENSIBLY WRITTEN BY PEKING FACTORY WORKERS AND WORKER-PEASANT-SOLDIER STUDENTS AT PEKING UNIVERSITY) APPEAR TO GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO USE THE CHARACTER "YAO" (STC 1179) AGAINST TENG AND HIS FOLLOWERS. THIS IS THE PEJORATIVE WORD FOR "SPIRIT" THAT IN THE MATERIAL AT

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THE SQUARE, AS NOTED IN REFTTEL B, APPEARED TO BE A REFERENCE

TO YAO WEN-YUAN AND/OR CHIANG CHING.

3. SOME OF THE IMAGERY IN PD SEEMS TO BE A DIRECT RETORT TO THE TIEN AN MEN ATTACKS ON THE SHANGHAI "WEN HUI PAO" (PARA 3, REFTTEL A); E.G. THERE IS AN ALMOST IDENTICAL METAPHOR OF A PRAYING MANTIS VERSUS THE WHEEL OF HISTORY.

4. THE PD MATERIAL AVOIDS ACKNOWLEDGING IN ANY EXPLICIT WAY THE PLACE OF CHOU EN-LAI IN THE TIEN AN MEN AFFAIR. HOWEVER, THERE IS AT LEAST ONE ALLUSION THAT CHINESE READERS COULD INTERPRET NEGATIVELY IN THIS REGARD. A LINE IN A TEXT AT THE SQUARE ATTACKING "WEN HUI PAO" HAD READ: "OUR ADVICE TO YOU (WHO OPPOSE CHOU EN-LAI) IS: DON'T ACT LIKE MAD DOGS (DOGS - STC 3689) YAPPING AT THE SUN." AN ARTICLE IN THE PD INCLUDES A LINE THAT CAN BE READ AS EITHER "HOW CAN A FEW HOMELESS DOGS (0828 1367 0037 3689) WITHSTAND ONE BLOW?" OR (AS SUGGESTED BY ONE PRC NATIONAL) "HOW CAN A FEW DOGS FROM A HOME IN MOURNING WITHSTAND ONE BLOW?". WHATEVER THE AUTHOR'S INTENT, THE LATTER INTERPRETATION COULD OFFEND THE MASSES OF CHINESE WHO WENT TO TIEN AN MEN SQUARE AND OTHER LOCATIONS IN CHINA DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL IN THE SPIRIT OF FAMILY MEMBERS HONORING THEIR DEPARTED FATHER.  
THOMAS

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